

DEMING HEADLIGHT.

VOL. 13.

DEMING, GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1893.

NO. 7.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

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COMMENT.

The Minnesota legislature is considering a bill to prohibit the wearing of hoop skirts in that state. The climatic vagaries of the northwest, this winter, have been very severe and far reaching.

"Free trade with all nations—entanglements with none," was the motto of the Democrats under Jefferson, and it is good yet. And it applies to Hawaii as well as to South America or Canada. Let freebooting stop.

The new Populist-Democratic Senator from Nebraska is for low tariff, free coinage and manhood rights against corporation privileges. Evidently he has the making of a good Democrat in him, if he is not one already.

The White Oaks Eagle remarks that "Considering the length of time that New Mexico has been trying to break into the United States without success, the chances for Hawaii to be taken in out of the wet by Uncle Sam do not look very encouraging."

Our neighbor the Clayton Enterprise institutes a very striking comparison of conditions when it remarks that "Anybody who has watched a small boy taking the last bites of an apple core knows just how the average federal office holder feels as the 4th of March approaches."

Aunt the loose talk about annexing the Sandwich Islands, the St. Louis Republic very pertinently and none too forcibly suggests that "If we want any more black and yellow American citizens, what is the sense in banishing Chinese who have been civilized for three thousand years when it was only the other day that the Sandwich Islanders were eating their own grandmothers?"

There is altogether more truth than there ought to be in the remark of the Republic that the Porter census will cost over eight million dollars. The only constitutional census is the census of population, which would not have cost much over a third of the immense sum expended in collecting statistics in the reliability of which no well-informed person has any confidence.

Mr. John W. Noble, Harrison's Secretary of the Interior, is reported as saying that Cleveland "would not be so foolish as to appoint Gresham." To which the Republic rejoins that "a good many people did not think Harrison would be so foolish as to appoint Noble—and yet he was." And the Republic might have added that there was a distinction between Gresham and Noble.

News of the death of Algernon Charles F. Sartoris at Capri was received in London last week. Sartoris will be remembered as the scamp who was married to Miss Nellie Grant in the East room of the White House in May, 1874. His subsequent treatment of her was said to be brutal and cruel in the extreme. She finally left him and has lived since with her two children in London but was never divorced from him.

Among the declared objects of the McKinley tariff law, set out in its title, was the reduction of the revenues. It has succeeded. The revenue has been reduced in a very effective and thorough manner, till the secretary of the Treasury, as the last resort to escape utter bankruptcy, is seriously considering the project of issuing bonds and putting them on the market as the only means left to secure money to pay the current expenses of government.

The Las Vegas Stock Grower and Farmer, the recognized exponent of the Cattle and Agricultural industries, pays a merited compliment to the cattle Sanitary Board, Messrs. Saint, Hopewell and Booth, in saying that their reappointment by Governor Prince, and prompt confirmation by the Council, was a merited reward for the intelligent and earnest efforts the board has put forth to, so far as lay in their power, advance and protect the interests of the stock raisers of the territory.

THE PROPOSED EL PASO RESERVOIR.

The proposition of building a dam across the Rio Grande at or above the city of El Paso for the establishment of water works there is being actively and earnestly discussed by the press and people of that city. The project has been mooted for several years, but with the growth of the town the imperative need of a better water supply has given the subject renewed and deepening interest.

The idea, however, of establishing a reservoir in the bed of the river by the construction of a dam across its channel, is one which should be very carefully weighed before being determined upon, for it is not alone the matter of the interest and convenience of the city of El Paso that is to be considered, but also the rights and the interests of the people of that great valley in New Mexico, for many miles above that city.

It is exceedingly doubtful whether such a reservoir, if constructed, would be of any permanent advantage to the town or anybody else, while it is more than probable that it would be very seriously destructive to a great many people in the valley, who have rights in the premises quite as sacred and important as are those of the town.

On witnessing one of the great floods that occur annually in that river, with the immense volume of sand that is carried down with them, it is quite apparent that any reservoir, no matter how large, must be filled up in at the longest a very few years. As this filling up process continues from year to year, it is also apparent that the wider would become the extent of valley covered by the flood waters carrying this sand, till not only the reservoir proper but the entire valley would be filled by it, the dam overflowed, and the river, after destroying everything between its banks for many miles above, would again flow past the town as now, and possibly through it as well.

It must be apparent to any who will watch the vagaries of that stream, and take note of the vast volume of sediment that is carried down in one of its annual floods, that this result is inevitable from any attempt to impound its waters in its own bed, and that the only method whereby storage for reservoir or other purposes can be successful is by piers or wing dams splitting the stream, after the Mexican fashion of taking out water for their acequias, making the piers high enough to take a portion of the flood waters as well as at the normal stage of the river, and conducting it by lateral canals, constructed at water grade, to storage basins, the length to be governed by the elevation desired for the obtaining of pressure. The silt in the water would thus be deposited in the canal before reaching the reservoir, and from there it could be cleared with comparatively little expense or trouble.

Under this plan there would be no filling up of the reservoir with sand—no flooding of the adjacent country and destruction of farms, and they could be assured of a permanent supply of water at all ordinary stages of the river. Nor need the expense be materially greater in the first instance than the plan now under discussion.

More Gold Development.

(White Oaks Eagle.)

An enterprise which will add immensely to the prosperity of this vicinity has unfolded itself within the past few days. It has been definitely ascertained that the Vera Cruz mine, located about six miles this side of Nogal, which was inspected by Mr. R. Y. Anderson of Denver, a short time ago, has been bonded by Colorado capitalists.

Mr. J. D. Gaylord, of Nogal, who represents the company here, also orders to contract for 100,000 feet of sawed lumber and timbers to be delivered on the ground within sixty days, also to prepare to receive and haul sixty tons of machinery from the railroad.

The company expects to have a thirty stamp mill in operation by the 15th of May. It is their intention to put up a building with a capacity for 100 stamps, which will be put in, if on further development, the property warrants it. A 125 horse-power boiler and engine have been ordered.

CONVICT LABOR IN ROAD MAKING.

The HEADLIGHT has during the past year made frequent suggestion that the labor of the convicts in the Penitentiary be utilized in the construction and repairing of the country roads of the Territory. The keeping of these convicts has since the construction of the Penitentiary been almost a dead expense to the public. Several propositions have been made, at different times, to put them at various employments for the purpose of enabling the Territory to get at least some return for this expense. But every proposition has been met by the criticism that it would bring the convicts into competition with free labor, and in every instance that criticism has been fatal to the suggestion.

In the matter of road making, however, that criticism would not apply, certainly not with any real force. No people take kindly to "working on the road." It is true the law now requires every able bodied citizen to expend so much labor on the roads every year or pay a tax in lieu thereof.

Sometimes the tax is paid and sometimes there is a pretense of doing the work, but quite as generally neither is the tax paid or the work performed. And when the work is performed it is quite as often as otherwise done in a half-hearted, shiffling way, and the result is that there are few roads in the Territory but little better than nature originally made them. Another result is that not a town in the Territory can be said to have a respectable highway leading into it for the transportation of the produce of the country to market.

It is a fact patent to every observer, that on every pound of produce thus taken to market the cost to the producer is increased by the greater time required to get it to that market, and the profit thereon diminished by his inability to haul as much over a bad road as a good one.

It would seem that in addition to the utilization of a class of labor now a dead weight upon the public, these convicts could be made a material source of profit to every producer in the country and at the same time add nothing to the tax burden of country or town.

This subject is recently exciting considerable interest in several states, notably in the state of New York.

The New York board of trade and transportation has recommended that the convicts of that state be used for improving the country roads. On behalf of the organized labor of the state Samuel Gompers also asks that the experiment be made, and in his message to the New York legislature Governor Flower recommends that "the superintendent of prisons be properly authorized by law to employ some of the prisoners at Dannemora in road building in the vicinity of the prison."

The experiment of employing convicts thus is likely to be tried very soon. If New York does not, some other state will.

The New Mexico Legislature is not likely to put in the balance of its time more profitably to the public than in the decision of some plan for the improvement of country roads by the labor of the Territorial convicts.

The many fine beds of fire clay that have been opened up in this vicinity could furnish employment for hundreds, even thousands, of men for an indefinite period, and indicates that an inexhaustible supply of that useful material exist here. The quality is shown by the excellent reputation being established throughout the southwest by the product of the Socorro Fire Clay works. Newspapers, outside of Socorro, speak very highly of the brick manufactured by that firm. [Socorro Adv.]

There are rumors that a syndicate of eastern capitalists will soon commence the construction of a large dam across the Rio Grande river at a point about twenty-five miles south of this city where the surroundings are said to be very favorable for the purpose of forming a large reservoir and using the water thus accumulated for irrigation purposes. Such an undertaking, if successful, would place thousands of acres of waste land under profitable cultivation, and do more to settle up this valley with a desirable class of people than anything else. It is not the need of water from which this valley is suffering, so far as farming industries are concerned, but from a lack of facilities to utilize what water could easily be secured by the construction of proper dams. [San Marcial News.]

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JAY COOKE DEFENDS SILVER.

The Philadelphia Manufacturer (Dec. 31st) prints a letter from Jay Cooke, the veteran Philadelphia banker, strongly opposing the arguments against unlimited use of silver, and declaring that the agitation for stopping silver purchases is unnecessary and unreasonable. The following is an extract:

"The demonization of silver in 1873, although a measure enacted ignorantly, confessed by Congress, was a great crime to civilization and progress, and, further, the vast majority of the people who are not capitalists have been reduced in resources and in debt-paying capacity to the full extent of the withdrawal of the legal-tender silver money."

"It is almost laughable, were it not so serious, to read the editorials in the daily press of the country, which are in great majority adverse to the upholding of silver and restoring to it the basis of 16 to 1, and to its former position as a legal-tender, debt-paying metal."

"In my experience, I have seen silver sell at a large premium above gold, and during California gold days I have made purchases of gold at a discount for checks on our Philadelphia banks. It would have been just as easy at that time to have de-monetized gold, and to have produced precisely the same conditions as to gold as now prevail in regard to silver, that is, if the coinage of gold had been refused at the mints of the United States and other countries, and it had been made an article of trade and commerce merely."

"The newspapers seem to be doing all they can to create a panic by declaring that the further buying of silver will expel the gold from the United States Treasury, and from this country, which is a silly prognostication. It has no foundation whatever in fact, or in the experience of those who have watched the course of events in the past."

The outlook at Pinos Altos is very encouraging. The Manhattan Gold Mining and Milling Company's tunnel is nearly completed and when it is completed the company will commence to take out ore for the mill here. On completion of the tunnel the company will be able to mine ore considerably cheaper than ore has been mined by the company heretofore and it is expected that the mines can be operated as successfully as the Pacific Gold Company's mine which is on the same lead and is now producing ore enough to keep two mills in operation. [Silver City Sentinel.]

Col. Sam. Walker, of Lawrence, died on Monday afternoon last after a lingering illness of several years. Col. Walker came to Kansas in 1854 and settled in Douglas county. He was an active and conspicuous participant in the exciting events that characterized the early settlement of the country. He was brave and cool headed and a man that would be relied on implicitly under the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. [Wyandotte Daily.]

How To Be Healthy And Happy.

Don't work 875 days in the year. Get out into the sunshine. Take a vacation once in a while. If too busy to "lay off" last summer buy an excursion ticket at once, via Santa Route, to Las Vegas Hot Springs, New Mexico, and stop a week or more at Montezuma Hotel. Hot baths, burro riding, sunny days, and bathing in the mountains. September weather lasts all winter. For copy of illustrated pamphlet, address F. O. Nicholson, G. P. O. A. T. & N. F. R. R. Topeka, Kansas.

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